GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:140
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
SETTING UP OF A NATIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of expansion of Internet is slow in the country;

(b) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has suggested the setting up of a National Internet Exchange for the expansion of Internet;

(c) if so, the other suggestions given by the TRAI to accelerate the pace of expansion of Internet in the country;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PI MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 140 FOR 27TH NOVEMBER, 2002 REGARDING SETTING UP OF A NATIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had constituted a Task Force to prepare an action plan to accelerate the growth of Internet and to recommend inter-alia a methodology to set up Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) for peering of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) so as to save cost of International Bandwidth. TRAI is of the view that IXPs should be set up as commercial entities and be run by industry itself, e.g. through Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI). The IXPs may initially be set up in the four metro cities and in due course, similar peering points may be established at state capitals, so that bandwidth on the national backbone as well can be saved.

(c) The other salient suggestions of TRAI for the Government are:

(i) De-licensing of the 2.4 GHz Industrial Scientific and Medical (ISM) band.

(ii) Facilitation of direct access by ISPs to the bottleneck facilities for access to International Submarine Cable Systems.

(iii) ISPs to be conferred the status of infrastructure Industry.

(iv) Economic incentives to be considered to reduce the cost of Internet access devices.

(d) & (e): Government has issued notification exempting from licensing the use of Wireless Local Area Network(W-LAN) and Bluetooth and IEEE 802.11 b Technology Equipment in 2.4 GHz band upto 100 milliwatt power and for indoor use, including single contiguous campus of an individual, duly recognised organisation or institution. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have recently decreased the tariff rates for Internet access calls by half during non-peak

hours in the night (from 22.30 hrs. to 06.30 hrs.).